

REMARKS

Claims 71-74, 76, 78, 83 and 84 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 71-74, 76 and 78 are rejected as being unpatentable over Shima (US 2002/0004802) in view of Walker (US 6,494,562).

In the rejection, the Examiner contends Shima discloses most of the features recited in claim 71, but relies on Walker to teach reading the cartridge ID and the URL from the memory element of the cartridge at the client. (*Office Action*, p.3).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that even if combined as suggested, the suggested combination fails to disclose “wherein the printing data supplied from the client to the image forming apparatus is different from the plurality of thumbnail images,” or “wherein the image forming apparatus is locally connected to the client,” as recited in claim 71

Specifically, the method described in Shima is an invention related to a method in a system where a server and a printer are integrated or in a system where a printer is located on the side of a server. The target system of this is totally different from that of the present invention related to a method in a system where a client has a locally connected printer.

Moreover, in Shima, on the Web page, thumbnail images corresponding to the printing data sent from the information terminal 61 are the only images displayed. This is different from the features of claim 1 which displays thumbnail images of a plurality of sample images which are different than those corresponding to printing data sent from the client. Accordingly, there is an effect that sample images not present in the client can be provided to the client.

Additionally, Applicants submit, in contrast to the Examiner’s contention, Shima also fails to disclose “reading printing environment information from a storage of the image-forming

apparatus at the client,” as recited in claim 71. In particular, Shima merely discloses that the transfer of thumbnail images is requested, that is, a printing prediction result according to various printing conditions is requested. As the printing condition, Shima only discloses that there is a case where printing is performed at 720 dpi and 360 dpi. That is, it is not disclosed at all that concrete printing environment information such as 720 dpi and 360 dpi is included in this request. Further, it is not disclosed at all that printing conditions of the printer are read out from the printer.

Applicants also submit, in contrast to the Examiner’s contention, Shima fails to disclose “transmitting the read printing environment information from the client to the information-providing server”. In particular, Shima merely discloses that transfer of thumbnail images is requested. However, Shima fails to disclose that any printing environment information of the printer 1 is included in the request.

Applicants also submit, in contrast to the Examiner’s contention, Shima fails to disclose, “displaying a set of printer properties and printing medium appropriate on the basis of the transmitted printing environment information and the selected thumbnail image at the client,” as recited in claim 71. Specifically, Shima fails to disclose that the printing medium information is displayed together with the selected thumbnail image. However, according to an aspect of the present invention, by displaying this printing medium, there is an effect that the user can prepare a printing medium suitable for the printing in the printer.

Applicants also submit, in contrast to the Examiner’s contention, Shima fails to disclose “creating printing data on the basis of the selected printing mode and the selected printing medium at the server,” as recited in claim 71. Rather, Shima only discloses that printing by the printer 71 is performed. Shima does not disclose that the server (web server section) creates

printing data. Further, in Shima, printing data for performing printing is created in the image preparation section 75 which is different from the web server section of the printer 71. Therefore, Shima fails to disclose that the printing data for performing printing is created in the server. Further, according to this aspect of the present invention, the server creates printing data for the printer. Therefore, there is an effect that it is possible to mitigate the processing load in the client and the printer.

Finally, Applicants submit, in contrast to the Examiner's contention, Shima fails to disclose, "supplying the printing data received from the information-providing server, to the image-forming apparatus from the client; and processing the printing data received from the information-providing server via the client to perform printing," as recited in claim 71. Specifically, Shima fails to disclose that printing data is created in the server (web server section) and that information terminal (client) sends printing data received from the server to the printer. Further, thumbnail images sent from the server to the information terminal are images only for display and different from the printing data for performing printing by the printer.

Consequently, Applicants submit the Examiner's rejection is in error because Shim fails to disclose the above noted features. Additionally, Applicants also note that Walker, either taken alone or in combination with Shima, fails to compensate for these deficiencies.

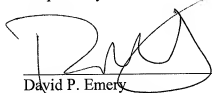
Thus, Applicants submit claim 71 is allowable for at least these reasons. Additionally, because claims 76 and 78 recite similar features, Applicants submit these claims are allowable for the same reasons set forth above. Finally, Applicants submit claims 72-74 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David P. Emery', is written over a horizontal line.

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